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WELCOME ABOARD

USNS APACHE
(T-ATF 172)

Military Sealift Command
Washington, D.C.

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SHIP CHARACTERISTICS

Overall length	226 feet
Beam	42 feet
Gross tons	919
Displacement	2,260
Cruising speed	13 knots
Crew size	17
Military Communications Detachment	4
Built by Marinette Marine Corporation Mannette, Wisconsin	1981
Sponsor	Mrs. John R. Young
Christening Ceremony	March 28, 1981

USNS Apache (T-ATF 172) is one of seven oceangoing fleet tugs operated by the Navy's Military Sealift Command. They are part of MSC's Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force operating in direct support of U.S. Navy fleets deployed around the world.

MSC tugs are used to tow ships, barges, and targets for gunnery exercises. They are also used as platform for salvage and diving work, as a participant in naval exercises, to conduct search and rescue missions, to aid in the clean up of oil spills and ocean accidents, and to provide firefighting assistance.

The Apache has a crew of 17 civil service mariners and a military communication detachment of four U.S. Navy personnel. All MSC ships are crewed and operated by civilian mariners.

The Apache was delivered to the Navy in 1981 and is the last of the Powhatan class of ocean tugs. All seven of the Powhatan class tugs are similar to privately-owned supply tugs which serve the offshore petroleum industry but with extra features necessary for naval operations. The features include a salvage and diving capability and modifications to allow a helicopter to hover over the deck while delivering or unloading supplies.

Tugs of the Powhatan class are named after American Indian tribes. The Apache, for instance, is named after a tribe of nomadic indians of northern Mexico and the southwestern United States.

Significant accomplishments:

- In 1982 Apache towed the battleship USS Iowa from Philadelphia to New Orleans for reactivation.

- In 1987 Apache was the platform for the archeological search and salvage operations of the USS Monitor, which sank during the Civil War in 1862 off the coast of Cape Hatteras, N.C. Apache's primary assistance was to lower a one-ton acoustic and video equipped robot and then maneuver the ship and the robot to the resting place of the Monitor.

Military Sealift Command • U.S. Navy • Washington, D.C. 20398-5100

March 1989